

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

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State of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor



**CALIFORNIA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
PRACTICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**January 18, 2007
Sacramento, California**

Committee Members Present

Deborah Bolding, Acting Chairperson
Mary Kay Gallagher
Roberta Murphy
Judi Palladino
Barbara Rodrigues

Committee Members Absent

Luella Grangaard
Janet Jabri
Pamela Roberts

Staff Present

Laura Freedman-Eidson, Staff Counsel
Heather Martin, Executive Officer

A. Call to order, roll call, establishment of a quorum

Acting Chairperson Deborah Bolding called the meeting to order at 10:55 am and called the roll. A quorum was not present. Legal counsel advised that without a quorum, the Committee could not take a vote and make any official recommendations from the Practice Committee to the Board.

B. Approval of the August 16, 2006, Committee meeting minutes

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

C. Approval of the November 30, 2006, Committee meeting minutes

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

D. Report on assignments pending from the August 16, 2006, and November 30, 2006, Committee meetings

Ms. Martin explained that due to limited resources, there were a few assignments pending from the August 16, 2006, and November 30, 2006, Committee meetings, including:

- Completing revisions to the *Application to Provide Advanced Practice Post-Professional Education*
- Researching what how Boards have established their expert witness programs

E. Discussion and consideration of requirements, including but not limited to continuing competency requirements, for applicants who haven't practiced within the last five years [Business & Professions Code Section 2570.14].

Ms. Martin informed the Committee that the Board referred this item back to the Committee at its November 2006 meeting.

There were two requests by the Board; (1) determine how other Boards handle applicants who have not practiced in the past five years, and (2) whether NBCOT requires that practitioners take the exam again.

Ms. Bolding stated that she believes that practitioners should take 40 hours of continuing education, specifically including scope of practice, ethics, OT framework. The committee discussed the possibility and availability of refresher courses, which are generally a week long (40 hours). Ms. Palladino indicated that she would survey the clinical fieldwork supervisors at their next meeting to see if they had any suggestions regarding content areas. Ms. Rodrigues also suggested the Committee consider AOTA's OT Practice Framework tool regarding specific content areas.

Further discussion ensued. The Committee agreed that practitioners should complete 40 hours of continuing competency to satisfy B&P 2570.14, and that all contact hours should be directly related to OT.

F. Discussion and consideration of requiring licensure/certification for all instructors at educational institutions prior to revision of ACOTE standards, effective January 1, 2008.

Ms. Martin explained that this issue was raised at the last meeting in a different context and reminded the Committee members that there are some instructors in OT and OTA programs that are not licensed to practice in California. Ms. Martin clarified that the OTs/OTAs are not engaged in patient care, but that their role is as an educator.

Ms. Bolding stated that as educators; they are not practicing occupational therapy, they are practicing education. Ms. Murphy stated that she feels that is appropriate to require licensure of those faculty members providing occupational therapy education. Ms. Rodrigues stated that she believes it is a good concept to require instructors to be licensed, however, she hesitates to equate "teaching" with "practice."

Further discussion ensued and it was determined that this issue would self-correct with the new Standards and Interpretative Guidelines approved by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, which will be effective January 1, 2008. The Committee agreed no further action was necessary.

G. Discussion of ethical standards at fieldwork sites

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

H. Discussion of reporting requirements of students and supervising occupational therapists

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

I. Discussion and development of Expert Witness criteria

Ms. Martin recommended that the Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Examination Resources (OER) be utilized to assist the Board in developing criteria for expert witnesses. Ms. Martin explained that since OER staff develop examination questions, they could also help to develop criteria for evaluating the Expert Witness

applications. Once the criteria were developed, then staff could apply the criteria to review applications and determine a score to ascertain whether a practitioner is qualified to be an expert witness.

Ms. Bolding requested that staff first research what other Boards do concerning expert witnesses and how they developed their programs. This information could then be brought back to a future meeting before the Committee considers having OER staff provide assistance.

J. Review and consideration of draft Joint Practice Statements from the Board of Physical Therapy and Board of Occupational Therapy regarding Scope of Practice and the PT's Responsibility when Supervising an OT Obtaining an Advanced Practice Certification.

Ms. Martin explained that the Physical Therapy Board approached the CBOT on the subject of developing joint Board statements due to the volume of calls they received. Ms. Martin agreed that clarifying the Scope of Practice for both OT and PT practitioners and providing guidance regarding the PT's Responsibility when Supervising an OT Obtaining an Advanced Practice Certification would be helpful to Board staff as well as the practitioners themselves.

Staff presented the two draft items for consideration. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Martin indicated that these two items were to be presented to the PT Board at their meeting to be held in early February and that once both Board's agreed on the final version, the items would be posted on both Board's websites. After further discussion, Ms. Martin agreed to work further with the representatives of the PT Board and each board's respective Legal Counsel to bring revised Joint Practice Statements to the next Committee meeting.

K. Future agenda items

- Report on pending Committee assignments
- Review of Frequently Asked Questions on Board website
- Fieldwork sites – ethic practice – reporting

L. Public comment session

No public comment.

M. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.